

REMARKS

Applicants again would like to thank the Examiner for the indicated allowability of the subject matter recited in claims 2-4, 7, 13, 15 and 18-22 and respectfully request reconsideration of all remaining claims in view of the above-amendments and the following remarks.

I. CLAIM REJECTION UNDER §102(e)

Claims 1, 5, 8-12, 14 and 16 were rejected under §102(e) as being anticipated by Chainer et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,603,627 were rejected under §102(e) as being anticipated by Chainer et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,603,627.

Claim 1 is amended to recite the step of (b) determining an accessible track range for the surface partly based on several lateral positions sensed while urging the actuator laterally against a stop at a common actuator position.

A. **"Track Range" is Different Than "Track Spacing"**

Chainer et al. discuss "track spacing", not "track range. In col. 4, lines 20-27, Chainer et al. discuss that the "spacing between tracks is checked by measuring the 'overlap' signal (Step 330) which is equal to the sum of the normalized readback amplitudes for a pair of tracks when the read element is positioned such that it overlaps both tracks by approximately equal amounts. This overlap signal decreases with increasing track spacing and therefore provides a measurement of relative track spacing" (Emphasis added).

In claim 1, the phrase, "a track range for the surface" clearly refers to a range of tracks on the surface, not the spacing between a pair of adjacent tracks.

The Office Action suggests Chainer et al. disclose determining "a track range (spacing between tracks)." However, a person of ordinary skill in the art would understand that "track spacing" is much different than "track range."

B. Chainer et al. Does Not Disclose A "Common Actuator Position"

1. Chainer et al. Move the Actuator

As described in the Abstract, Chainer et al. write an initial set of servo pattern tracks by,

moving an actuator against a compliant structure (e.g., crash stop) with a first force applied thereto to hold the actuator in a first position to write a first track of the servo pattern. The force is changed, thereby reaching a second position of the actuator against the compliant structure, at which a second track of the servo pattern is written. The process is iterated for additional tracks.

Thus, Chainer et al. do not sense several lateral positions while urging the actuator laterally against a stop "at a common actuator position", as recited in claim 1.

2. "Several" Requires More Than Two

Further, Chainer's track spacing measurement reads the "overlap" between two tracks. In Chainer et al., the read element is positioned between a pair of tracks such that it overlaps both tracks by approximately equal amounts. (Col. 4, lines 23-24). The resulting overlap signal therefore relates to the overlap between two tracks.

The Office Action suggests Chainer et al. disclose "the identification of several tracks, adjacent tracks." However, the term "several" requires more than two. Chainer et al. do not sense "several" lateral positions while urging the actuator laterally against a stop at a common actuator position.

In fact, this difference further highlights the significant difference between determining a "track range" by sensing several lateral positions while urging the actuator laterally against a stop at a common actuator position, in claim 1, and measuring "track spacing" between a pair of tracks in Chainer et al.

Thus, Chainer et al. do not disclose:

- "determining a track range",
- sensing "several lateral positions"; and
- "a common actuator position."

Independent claim 10, this claim includes the step of "urging an actuator against a stop while identifying each of several tracks at a common actuator position using a head supported by the actuator." Again, Chainer et al. does not anticipate these claim limitations. Rather, the actuator is moved from one position to the next, and Chainer et al. do not identify each of several tracks at a common actuator position.

Since Chainer et al. do not anticipate each and every element of independent claims 1 and 10, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1 and 10 and their respective dependent claims under §102(e) based on Chainer et al. be withdrawn.

II. CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER §103

Claims 6 and 17 were rejected under §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chainer et al. in view of Lee, U.S. Patent No. 6,715,032.

The Office Action acknowledges that Chainer et al. do not disclose the recited guardband but suggests Lee discloses the use of a guardband in FIG. 3 to ensure replacement of data within a give range.

However, claim 6 recites the step of designating a guardband that includes the lowest-numbered track that the stop permits the head to access, the guardband being adjacent to one side of the track range for the surface. Lee does not disclose the designation of a guardband relative to a track range determined according to the method recited in claim 1 of the present application. Even if the references were combined as suggested in the Office Action, the resulting combination would still fail to teach or suggest the inventions recited in claim 6.

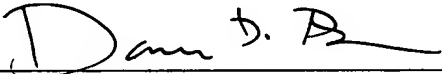
Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 6 (and similarly claim 17) under §103(a) be withdrawn.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTMAN, CHAMPLIN & KELLY, P.A.

By:


David D. Brush, Reg. No. 34,557
Suite 1400 - International Centre
900 Second Avenue South
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-3319
Phone: (612) 334-3222 Fax: (612) 334-3312

DDB:tkj